

# COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health  
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

November, 1998

Volume 7, Number 11

## Breast Cancer Survivors Make Wreath for State Capitol Ceremony

Two breast cancer survivors participated in the making of the wreath that was displayed at the State Capitol in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Texas. Marlyn Hooper and Bev VanNote are both breast cancer survivors who have very different, but important messages for women.

"We are survivors," said Marlyn Hooper. "You think of breast cancer and you think of one woman, but breast cancer affects a whole family when the mother of a house has this disease."

"All the family members from the children to the grandpas, everyone she works with, everybody around that woman becomes a part of the cancer," Hooper said. "It's not just her disease, it's a community disease."

Hooper was diagnosed with



**Making a Beautiful Wreath** -- (left to right) Bev VanNote and Marlyn Hooper make the wreath displayed at the State Capitol marking Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Texas.

breast cancer in 1996, has undergone chemotherapy and is currently cancer-free.

Bev VanNote developed her cancer at a very young age. VanNote had a mastectomy on her 31st birthday.

"Young women are particularly told, 'Oh, don't worry dear, it would be very unusual for you to have breast cancer at your age,'" said VanNote. "But if the doctor can't provide an explanation that you feel comfortable with, I would urge any woman to pursue that

further. If I hadn't pushed for a biopsy in my case, I'm not sure I'd be here now for my children."

The women made a beautiful wreath that was displayed at the State Capitol. (See Insert for further details on Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Texas.)

### In This Issue...

Wreath Making	1
BCCCP Briefs	2
Community Profiles	2
Asian Woman's Hotline	2
Ask the Expert	3
Medicare Update	3
African American Task Force	3
Texas Mayors	4
Calendar of Events	4
Program Statistics	4

Breast Cancer Awareness Day Insert

### Cancer Education Breast Models

The State office can order these supplies for you. Call Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

## BCCCP Briefs

### Internet Resources

The National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) has a website at: <http://www.nawho.org>

### Publications

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes the *National Vital Statistics Reports*. The brief newsletter discusses different statistics in each issue. To receive this publication regularly, contact the National Center for Health Statistics at (301) 436-8500.

### Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

#### General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves  
Nora Ogea Lisa West  
Lurah Oliver Rhonnda Jones

#### Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney  
Claudia Himes

#### Public Information and Outreach:

Stephen Wright Andrea Littlefield

#### Data Collection and Maintenance:

Vincent Crawley Codie Prinz  
Wanda Gibson Steve Johnson  
June Browning Constance Holloway

#### Data Collection Forms

Wanda Gibson

#### Cancer Epidemiology/Demographics:

Vacant

#### Billing:

Kathy Kokel Codie Prinz

Texas Department of Health  
Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program  
1100 West 49th Street, G407  
Austin, TX 78756-3199  
(512) 458-7644  
(800) 452-1955  
(512) 458-7650 FAX  
email: [margaret.mendez](mailto:margaret.mendez) (or other staff first name, period and last name)@tdh.state.tx.us

### Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

### Local Changes

Please call or write Lisa West, Administrative Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. Thank you.

## Receive a Profile of Your Community

Ever wonder how to reach more of your priority population? The Cancer Information Service (CIS) has a new program available that allows providers to receive specific information about the communities they serve.

The program is a Community Health Profile that includes information about specific zip codes or counties. The information provided through the profile helps you identify and understand the priority population. Information includes:

✓ identifying **who** is most in need of outreach, e.g., identifying which areas of a state have the lowest cancer screening rates;

✓ identifying **where** a target audience lives by providing maps at the state, county, zip code, or neighborhood levels; and

✓ identifying **how** to reach them by providing information regarding their knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about cancer, media habits, and lifestyle characteristics.

If you are interested in receiving this free profile of your community, contact Linda Moreno, Outreach Manager, Cancer Information Service at (713) 792-3363 or fax (713) 794-4418. Email Linda at [lmoreno@mdanderson.org](mailto:lmoreno@mdanderson.org).

## Hotline Addresses Need for Asian Language Outreach

Asian women have the lowest breast and cervical screening rates in the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). The lack of Asian language outreach about the availability of the NBCCEDP services limits Asian women's access to the program.

The National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) has a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address this issue. NAWHO has created a toll-free referral hotline in

English and four Asian languages - Laotian, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Translators refer Asian women to the nearest NBCCEDP provider of free or low-cost mammograms, Pap tests, clinical breast examinations and pelvic exams. In addition, callers receive health education materials in their language on early detection methods and information on how to perform breast self examination.

The toll-free number for the hotline is (888) NAWHO-18. NAWHO also has a website at: <http://www.nawho.org>.

# Ask The Expert

*Don't forget, you can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.*

**Q** We just received our notice of award and the amount has gone down for this year. Why is this?

**A** Your total grant reflects Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds only. Texas Cancer Council funds are no longer available for diagnostic services since you may now use CDC funds for all allowable procedures. Spending will be evaluated at mid-year (January) for possible increases. However, providers may always request additional funds. These requests are considered on a first come, first served basis, for providers who are meeting program standards and if funds are available.

## African American Task Force Meeting



**Breast Cancer and African American Women** -- The Task Force on Breast Cancer and African American Women met recently to discuss ways to increase screening among African American women. The Task Force also talked about the BCCCP assisting with new outreach efforts, case management and follow-up. Pictured (left to right) are Veronda Durden, Health Facility Licensing Division, Texas Department of Health; Debra Owens, Diabetes Council, Texas Department of Health; Angie Colbert, University of Texas School of Nursing; and Mary Lou Adams, Ph.D., R.N., BCCCP Project Director, University of Texas School of Nursing.

## Medicare Update

**T**he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new written policy in regard to the changes in Medicare coverage. The coverage had changed to include preventive coverage of mammograms on an annual basis for women with Medicare Part B benefits.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) has included the new national policy in the current Standards and Policies. These standards were effective September 1, 1998.

The policy essentially states that a woman with Medicare Part B coverage should be referred to clinics that can screen her with this coverage. No deductible needs to be met for the annual mammogram. If diagnostic services are needed, the \$100 annual deductible must be met.

We have included a flow chart to assist you in doing intake on women 65 and older, or if disabled, receiving benefits from Social Security Administration. BCCCP also will provide you with a list of all women who are 65 and older as of September 1, 1998 to assist providers in determining eligibility for screening. If you have further questions, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

The State Office will send you binders to keep your *Commitment* newsletters. These will arrive soon. If you need additional copies of *Commitment*, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955



## Mayors Work with American Cancer Society

The Mayors' Campaign Against Breast Cancer was launched by the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) in November of 1997. The campaign is supported by a five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the goal of the campaign is to save lives through the

early detection of breast cancer.

American Cancer Society (ACS) believes the mayors can play a pivotal role in addressing breast cancer, especially in outreach for screening.

Texas members of the Mayors' Campaign Against Breast Cancer include: Kirk Watson, Austin; Carlos Ramirez, El Paso; Mary Lib

Saleh, Euless; Bill Souder, Hurst; Howard W. Peak, San Antonio; and Michael D. Morrison, Waco.

## Fall Regional Trainings



**"Go For the Gold!"** -- BCCCP providers listen to Claudia Himes, R.N., Nurse Consultant at a workshop in Dallas. BCCCP staff offered Program updates at several workshops throughout the state this fall.

## Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

**Texas Department of Health  
Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756-3199  
Telephone: (800) 452-1955  
Fax: (512) 458-7650  
Email: andrea.littlefield@tdh.state.tx.us**

### Important Dates

#### November

National Diabetes Month  
National Alzheimer's Awareness Month  
November 11 - Veteran's Day  
State Office Closed  
November 19 - Great American Smokeout  
November 26 - 27 - Thanksgiving  
State Office Closed

#### December

December 24 - 25 - Christmas  
State Office Closed

Women Served\*:  
106,424

Breast Screenings:  
127,408

Cervical Screenings:  
96,044

Breast Cancers:  
640

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:  
1434

Invasive Cervical Cancer:  
47

\*As of October 13, 1998